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FRIDAY
DECEMBER 3, 1954

I read in the early hours of the morning half of David Cecil's Early Life of Lord Melbourne. I think it is [redacted] superior, though not in literary style, to his concluding book on Lord M., written some 15 years later.

I went to see Doug Dillon this morning. He was [redacted] pleased with the result of Mendès' recent visit to Washington. Affairs in Indo-China are obviously unsatisfactory, but the State Department and the French visitors at least seem to have reached an accord on how their respective approaches can be usefully coordinated in the future.

Crosby Noyes called on me with the object of writing an article for the Washington Evening Star to include any ideas I had on the subject of European integration. I told him I was [redacted] anxious not to be quoted, and then affirmed my belief the subject was dormant but far from dead.

Luke Battle, who is stationed in Copenhagen, came to see me. He thinks Dean Acheson is thoroughly bored with his law business and misses the excitement of being Secretary of State. We discussed the subject I had once raised with Dean of his writing an account of his Governmental services. Luke had likewise done so and found Dean unwilling to reminisce in print on the ground that a public servant should not capitalize on affairs transpiring during his period of office.

Ridgway Knight called. He had gone to Brittany last week to shoot snipe and duck and [redacted] invited me to join him. It appears I was lucky not to have done so. The water was low. Consequently, he killed 4 snipe and 4 duck and contracted a bad cold. He is a wonderful fellow.

We lunched with Liliane de Rothschild, and I was spoiled, as is usual there, by drinking most of the contents [redacted] of a bottle of Ch. Lafitte 1916. Liliane and

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Elie are in the throes of acquiring Etienne de Beaumont's beautiful house on Boulevard des Invalides. I hope they get it, for, with their wonderful collections, they will improve it. The silver gilt lion and unicorn which I had greatly admired at Phillips, in London, arrived in Paris today, having been purchased by them. Very kindly, she gave me as a farewell present a fine medallion, her last purchase at our mutual and lamented place of resort, Neuville and Vivien. She is busily engaged in organizing the Marie Antoinette exposition, to take place at Versailles in 1955. She is probably the foremost expert on this period. She says the finest private collections on which she hopes to levy for loans are those of Elie's cousins, Jimmy de Rothschild in London, Maurice in Switzerland, and Germaine in Paris.

After lunch I stopped at the Galerie Charpentier to look at the articles for sale at auction tomorrow, [redacted] then went to the office.

Tonight we had a jolly dinner at Alfred Dehodencq for the members of the mission. There were 23 of us at dinner, and I, for one, enjoyed it immensely, as did Evangeline. I said, with complete accuracy and sincerity, that I thought the membership of our mission was the most efficient, devoted, and imaginative I had ever met with in my Government experience.

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